

## **VI. Promotional Opportunities**

### **Hospitals for a Healthy Environment (H2E)**

[www.h2e-online.org/programs/award/awards.htm](http://www.h2e-online.org/programs/award/awards.htm)

Hospitals for a Healthy Environment (H2E) is a joint effort by the American Hospital Association, EPA, Health Care Without Harm and the American Nurses Association. H2E strongly supports eliminating mercury-containing waste from the healthcare waste stream, reducing the volume of generated waste, and minimizing the production of persistent, bioaccumulative and toxic pollutants (PBTs). Hospitals agree (partner) to pursue H2E program goals:

1. Virtually eliminating mercury-containing waste from their hospital's waste stream by 2005.
2. Reducing the overall volume of waste (both regulated and non-regulated) by 33 percent by 2005 and by 50 percent by 2010.
3. Identifying hazardous substances for P2 and waste reduction opportunities, including hazardous chemicals and PBTs (persistent bioaccumulative and toxic pollutants).

Listed below are the New Hampshire hospitals that are partners in H2E:

Alice Peck Day Memorial Hospital, Lebanon  
Concord Hospital, Concord  
Dartmouth-Hitchcock Medical Center, Lebanon  
Elliot Hospital, Manchester  
Franklin Regional Hospital, Franklin  
Huggins Hospital, Wolfeboro  
Littleton Regional Hospital, Littleton  
Mondanock Community Hospital, Peterborough  
New London Hospital, New London  
Parkland Medical Center, Derry  
St. Joseph Hospital, Nashua  
Southern New Hampshire Medical Center, Nashua  
Upper Connecticut Valley Hospital, Colebrook  
Veteran's Affairs Medical Center, Manchester  
Wentworth Douglass Hospital, Dover

H2E also presents a number of environmental awards to partners and champions for a variety of accomplishments, from doing pollution prevention projects, to demonstrating that their facility is setting the industry standard for environmental programs and practices.

## **New Hampshire Governor's Award for Pollution Prevention**

Another promotional opportunity is the New Hampshire Governor's Award for Pollution Prevention. Two hospitals won the Governor's Awards in 1999: Dartmouth Hitchcock Medical Center and Concord Hospital. Below is a case study of the Concord Hospital project. For more information on the Governor's Award for Pollution Prevention, visit [www.des.state.nh.us/nhppp/nh01003.htm](http://www.des.state.nh.us/nhppp/nh01003.htm).

**Concord Hospital** was recognized with a 1999 Governor's Award for its "Mercury Reduction Plan." The plan was developed due to Concord Hospital's concerns about mercury and its effect on the long-term health of employees and the community.

Within the hospital, four areas were targeted for mercury reduction: operating rooms, ambulatory care center, laboratory, and maternity unit. In 1998, Concord Hospital reduced mercury by recycling 34 pounds of mercury-filled esophageal dilators, 7,578 feet of fluorescent tubes, 160 fluorescent "U-tubes," and four pounds of broken mercury-containing thermometers and manometers. In January of 1999, the maternity ward began placing digital thermometers in its newborn care kits, effectively removing more than 1,200 mercury thermometers from the region's waste stream annually.

## **VII. Other Useful Websites and Links**

- Physicians for Social Responsibility: [www.psr.org](http://www.psr.org)
- Nightingale Institute for Health and the Environment: [www.nihe.org](http://www.nihe.org)
- Center for Environmental Health: [www.cephca.org/shear](http://www.cephca.org/shear)
- P2 Gems: [www.p2gems.org](http://www.p2gems.org)
- Hospitals and Pollution Prevention: [www.epa.state.nh.us/opp/hospital.html](http://www.epa.state.nh.us/opp/hospital.html)
- New Hampshire Hospital Association: [www.nhha.org](http://www.nhha.org)

## **VIII. Conclusion: Pollution Prevention for Healthcare Facilities**

Healthcare facilities in New Hampshire and across the country are already using pollution prevention techniques to reduce the toxicity, volume and disposal costs of their wastes, reduce their mercury and dioxin emissions, and lower their liability. We hope that using this guide will further healthcare facility's efforts to prevent pollution. For more information please contact Sara Johnson of NHDES at 1-800-273-9469 or [sjohnson@des.state.nh.us](mailto:sjohnson@des.state.nh.us) or Debbie Augustine of the Foundation for Healthy Communities at 603-225-0900 or [daugustine@nhha.org](mailto:daugustine@nhha.org).